FASHION INTERNATIONAL
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD
JULY 1987

STOP SHORT LEG LOOKS

When Fall hems go up, new hosiery rules are laid down. Silhouettes that rely on abbreviated lengths and curved lines depend on leg looks that complete the image.

REVIEWED:

LEGWEAR

DESIGNER FOCUS

HOLIDAY DAZZLES

MENSWEAR CLASSICS

Opaque tights, most often black, balance shorter and shortest skirts as they draw attention away from the knee and lead the eye to trim ankles. LOUIS DELL 'OLIO's long shocking pink jacket and short black pencil skirt achieve perfect balance when opaque stockings emphasize the legs' silhouette. Colored legwear gains importance when they pull a muted tone from a plaid or keep continuity in monochromatic dressing. Matching opaques complete the effect of a taupe coat and dress ensemble by OSCAR DE LA RENTA. Matte finishes complement stretch woolens and jerseys with the same finish.

DONNA KARAN keeps the matte theme of contoured sweaters and stretch bodyskirts with dyed-to-match tights. Textured woolens and knits, like MARY JANE MARCASIANO's sweaters and short ribbed skirts, feel right combined with sweater tights. Smoky sheers look perfect with the season's bare black dress.

Nothing extends the leg like high-heeled pumps. Worn with opaque and semi-opaque stockings, a potentially blatant look gains sophistication. Suede and reptile shoes, often with stacked heels or ribbed soles, create textural interest. Simple flats still finish neat skirt looks. High-throated pumps or ankle high boots bring excitement to modern short dresses, while over-the-knee versions are essential for above-the-knee coats.

VOL. XV, No. 10
COPYRIGHT 1987 FASHION INTERNATIONAL

DESIGNER FOCUS:

GORDON HENDERSON

A graduate of Parsons School of Design, Gordon Henderson has been designing under his own name for two years. His background with Calvin Klein, working on the Limited Collection, has helped him acquire a feel for clean, unrestrictive sportswear. He designs for the woman "who is not controlled by her clothes but uses them as a tool that work for her." For Holiday, the main fabrications are rayon sateen and silk chiffon, with some wool jersey and cotton shirting, in black, ivory and navy. Jackets are either long and body-hugging or cropped high. An unusual piece is the camisole jacket in rayon sateen, sleeveless and body-conscious, worn alone or over a top-- the silk chiffon polo with detachable collar works well. Skirts look great, either short and flirty at 20" or long at mid-calf; especially daring are the sheer pleated chiffons. Each piece works together with a fresh, individual approach for an inventive collection. $40-$120 (80 W. 40th St., 302-9399)

JOANNA MASTROIANNI

Since founding her own line in Fall '86, Joanna Mastroianni has realized her goal to "translate the ease of sportswear into dressy day and evening looks." After studying at Parsons then graduating from F.I.T., she freelanced for Seventh Avenue and sold her designs to prestige specialty shops. The Holiday collection features several well-balanced groups including: rayon jersey tops and flounced skirts in 19" and 26" lengths, slim jersey dresses accented with silk organza, intricately boned bustiers in peau de soie to work with skirts of sculpted "animal skins", silk on spandex, silk evening pajamas and fishtail evening skirts. Single-button jackets in solid peau de soie and deco or animal prints mix easily with all separates. Special touches characterize her line. The innovative use of a double layer of jersey makes a slim dress float from the sheer yoke. A sleek jersey halter dress becomes surprisingly seductive when a pleated fan of silk organza covers the bare back. A bolero attracts attention with a saucy modified tuxedo tail; a silk ottoman suit neatly laces up the back. Meticulous construction adds to the luxury of this versatile line. $75-$600 (250 W. 40th St., 764-0840)

CHARLOTTE NEUVILLE

In her second season under her own name, Charlotte Neuville is getting a lot of attention as one of the "young designers." Having designed for Adrienne Vittadini, Perry Ellis, Jones New York Sport and Leslie Fay, she's certainly no "youngster" to the industry. At Leslie Fay, she had been hired to revamp the Outlander division until Lord & Taylor approached her for private label. With an art degree from Williams College and her vast experience, Ms. Neuville is doing what she has always wanted: "offering the customer a young, fashion forward collection, with bridge price points." Her Holiday collection combines elegance and fun, using satin back crepe, panne velvet, rayon faille, jersey and angora. An ivory, rayon faille, floral brocade makes a great tuxedo jacket worn with a straight mini at 19" or slim pant. A draped, feminine look comes in black or white wool jersey covered with "cracked ice" glitter, in tunics and easy chemises. Knits blend angora with rayon and lurex, for cropped sweaters and boleros. A sophisticated collection with the spirit of Holiday. $60-$200 (499 Seventh Ave., 695-1400)

HOLIDAY DAZZLES WITHOUT THE GLITZ

Newness abounds for Holiday '88 in fabrication, shape and detail. Silhouettes vary from circle skirts to skinny minis with lots of skin on display in off-the-shoulder and strapless looks. An earlier delivery date promotes a longer life on the selling floor, with more of a "year-round" attitude from the retailers. Designers have fun with lambswool and angora, velvet and taffeta even lurex and lame but the total result remains clean and understated-- the longer lengths look best for day, saving the shorter for the evening.

Daywear blends easily into eveningwear with the simplest medium-- knitwear. In her premiere collection, DANA BUCHMAN presents long ribbed tunics with low V backs over ankle-length circle skirts, in black and silver or olive and gold lurex combinations. On the shorter side, a black strapless mini looks good under a knit cardigan in the same length. ADRIENNE VITTADINI, the "queen of knits", uses lambswool/angora for her pink sweater sets with silver bugle beaded bows or stripes-- in simple dresses or crews cropped short and paired with taffeta poufs for evening. Her cropped cardigans with handsewn bows look great in positive/negative combinations of black and white lambswool/angora.

The Dinner Suit: ANNE KLEIN II focuses on the "tuxedo" with satin-trimmed tuxedo jackets in black wool crepe, or spencers and smoking jackets in ivory wool satin gabardine over silk crewneck blouses in ivory tissue faille or black georgette-- most often paired with a georgette pajama pant or slim split-skirt. A little more casual but just as elegant, is the red lacquer wool jersey kimono with bustier over silk jacquard draped sarong. CATHY HARDWICK trims a zippered cropped jacket in sequinned bows, worn over a slim black skirt; while DIANE BEAUDRY uses Italian wool crepe for her embroidered dinner jacket with gored back and matching skirt-- in black, berry and brandy. ROSE MARIE WOULFE has a different approach with her slim 22" skirt topped by a double-breasted jacket cropped high in front and extending low in back with 3 tiers of ruffles, in rayon/cotton ottoman-- black or white.

The Little Black Dress: Ultimately the simplest version comes from CALVIN KLEIN CLASSICS in cotton poplin-- strapless, short and body-hugging. ROSE MARIE BRANTLEY uses rayon matte jersey for a little slip dress under a long sheer coat in black chiffon. BERN CONRAD scoops his dress low in the back and ruffles the hem, in an angora/lambswool/nylon blend. VANDA MAZZEO's long sleeved, wool jersey dress has a square-shaped neckline; while MARY JANE MARCASIANO prefers a boatneck for her black rayon mini. ROSE MARIE WOULFE's little black dress is off the shoulder in a quilted satin and trimmed in velvet. On the wild side, MICHOEL SCHOELER creates a crocodile pattern on black patent leather for a little slip mini.

ROSE MARIE WOULFE'S DINNER SUIT

Sequins, Metallics & Lame: It wouldn't be holiday without the sparkle but this season, all that glitters need not be overdone. An asymmetrical dinner jacket by RONNIE HELLER is in silver lame, worn with a 25" black velvet skirt. ANN LAWRENCE creates a strapless, double-tiered pouf dress in multi-colored metallic, stopping just above the knee. For a little more sizzle, ADRIENNE VITTADINI pairs a cropped tank with a slim mini, both in horizontal black and white sequins-- very 60's. CATHY HARDWICK's black velvet bustier and slim skirt has a metallic balloon peplum, in pink or seafoam. And ONE BY NIGHT uses "crinkled taffeta" for a sleeveless zippered top and 22" skirt, in black, silver or green/gold acetate.

Sophisticated yet eye-catching, refined but still a little off-beat; today's woman needs the attention but also the simplicity to fit into her modern lifestyle. The Holiday '88 collections provide each of these alternatives.

MENSWEAR: CLASSICS REVIVED

The Men's Fashion Association presented its 35th semi-annual press preview earlier this month. Collections for Fall/Winter incorporate traditional comfort with the innovation of the times. Classics are revived with an emphasis on color and pattern.

Classic silhouettes are loosened with the new unconstructed suit. Jackets become boxier with fuller sleeves and rounded shoulders, sometimes dropped-- full linings are replaced by half linings and wider facings. Some have elasticized back or loose belts casually nipping in the waist. The single-breasted style dominates with pants, often pleated and fuller through the leg. Double and multi-button closures look newest with six- to eight-button fronts. GIORGIO ARMANI focuses on a six-button, double-breasted pinstripe suit with notched collar, a bit higher than in the past; and "hybrid" shoulder, rounded naturally but padded for a more commanding presence.

Luxe fabrics look best for the season's soft shapes: cashmere, alpaca wool in jackets and sweaters, wool twill and gabardine, silk in shirts and sweaters, and leather in jackets, pants and trim. TONY LAMBERT creates a sensual ensemble with a natural silk twill cardigan, cream silk shirt and double-pleated crepe pant. Patterns include basketweave, windowpane and glen plaids, houndstooth and pin stripes. ANDREW FEZZA's single-breasted sports jacket is in a multi-color basketweave.

Jewel tones enliven the overall color pallette, on dark and light grounds, with touches of fuchsia, emerald and purple. The traditional plaids focus on the addition of unexpected color. Green emerges as a parallel to womenswear, in deep loden and pine. JEFFREY BANKS' glen plaid sportcoat is taupe overplaided with lovat green, seafoam, russet and purple; while JEFF SAYRE's multi-patterned crewneck sweater is a conglomerate of stripes, argyle and plaids in a bright, multi-colored wool/alpaca blend.

FASHION INTERNATIONAL ° NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION FIELD

PUBLISHER: Ruth Finley, FASHION CALENDAR
EDITORS: Maria Carzis & Deborah Brumfield
CONTRIBUTORS: Eleonora Mutarelli, Milan; Ester Berkovits, New York; Lee Slaughter, N.Y. & Paris; Constance Crompton, New York
One-year subscription...$85.00 Overseas...$95.00
Published monthly by FASHION INTERNATIONAL, 185 E. 85 Street, N.Y. 10028, (212) 289-0420.